

THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / CONNIE GROSCH

Governor Carcieri and his wife, Sue, during yesterday's inauguration, on the State House lawn.

# Gov. Carcieri — take 2

Also taking the oath of office were the state's four other general officers and members of the General Assembly.

**BY SCOTT MAYEROWITZ  
AND KATHERINE GREGG**  
JOURNAL STATE HOUSE BUREAU

PROVIDENCE — Donald L. Carcieri was sworn in yesterday to his second term as the state's 57th governor in a ceremony where he spoke about the need to improve an education system that "in far too many instances today, we are failing."

"There's no greater threat to our collective prosperity — and no greater opportunity — than the performance of our schools," the Republican governor said. "When I stood here four years ago, I had lots of dragons to slay. Today, education is firmly at the top of my list."

Surrounded by his wife, 4 children and 13 grandchildren, Carcieri, 64, placed his hand on the family Bible and was sworn in by Attorney General Patrick C. Lynch. Outgoing Secretary of State Matt Brown skipped yesterday's



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / MARY MURPHY

The 103rd Field Artillery Guard of Thunder and the R.I. Militia offer a 19-gun salute on the State House lawn during yesterday's inauguration ceremony.

ceremony for a vacation. Brown has been absent from public view since his campaign for U.S. Senate fell apart in April.

The state's four other general officers

— all Democrats — also took the oath yesterday. Lt. Gov. Elizabeth H. Roberts, Secretary of State A. Ralph Mollis and

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**INAUGURATION DAY**

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# Carcieri

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General Treasurer Frank T. Carprio started their first terms while Lynch started his second.

An inaugural ball will be held tonight from 7 to 10 at Rhodes-on-the-Pawtuxet, in Cranston. The optional black-tie event is free and open to the public. During his speech, Carcieri noted that voters once again elected a Republican governor and a legislature dominated by Democrats.

"You expect all your elected representatives — no matter

what their party — to work together for the best interests of our people and state," he said. "That means more action and less rhetoric; more problem-solving and less partisan bickering. I pledge to you today that I will do my part."

Legislative leaders in their own speeches later agreed, saying that the election is over and it is time to put politics aside.

House Speaker William J. Murphy, D-West Warwick, and Senate President Joseph A. Montalbano, D-North Providence — both lawyers — easily won reelection to their posts after they and the rest of the lawmakers were sworn in to new two-year terms.

Joining the incumbents were 4 new members in the Senate and 10 new members in the House. Democrats hold strong majorities in both chambers, with a 23-to-5 advantage in the Senate and a 62-to-13 margin in the House.

For Carcieri, yesterday's focus was education.

The governor told a story about visiting an adult-education program two years ago and meeting a high school graduate who could not read or write.

"I don't ever want to see that happen again," he said.

Carcieri, the son of a teacher, was once a math teacher and married a science teacher. While local districts control the schools, he said "reform must be driven with a greater sense of urgency from the state level."

"I urge all parents to take a proactive role in helping our schools do better. Teachers cannot do this alone, no matter how competent they may be," Carcieri said. "No amount of money or government intervention can replace the support of loving, caring parents reinforcing the school's efforts."

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## **GOVERNOR CARCIERI**

said. "We cannot educate youngsters who don't speak English."

Carcieri said the state needs to come up with a "predictable" local aid formula and that there must be more charter schools.

Other issues on Carcieri's agenda include "the rising cost of health care."

"While this is a national problem, Rhode Islanders cannot afford to wait for a national solution," he said.

The governor also called on the state to shift away from oil and gas by "promoting and rewarding conservation" and developing power from wind, water, the sun and biofuels.

"Renewable sources of energy," he said, "will be the key to fueling Rhode Island's future economic prosperity."

Carcieri made note of the 3,800 Rhode Island soldiers called up to active duty. The pledge of allegiance yesterday was led by Sgt. Matt Levoie, an

Iraq veteran.

Carcieri, like many others yesterday, paid tribute to former President Gerald R. Ford, who died last week. Carcieri called him "a remarkable man whose steady hand, vast experience, and unwavering faith brought healing and continuity to a nation in great turmoil."

Security was unusually high around the State House. The governor typically travels with a small security detail, but yesterday there were dozens of troopers, soldiers, sheriffs and police officers on site. Roads surrounding the State House were closed and bomb-sniffing dogs searched the building.

Carcieri's spokesman Jeff Neal called the police presence "standard operating procedure" for an inauguration.

The Rhode Island National Guard had a \$75,000 budget for the event, which covers overtime for all the extra security as well as the rental of chairs and sound equipment, and other expenses.

The ceremony included a 19-gun salute, a concert by a Guard band and six prayers. There was also a low-level flyover by three Blackhawk helicopters and two C-130 aircraft.

There was very little surprise in the Senate yesterday as Montalbano was reelected as that chamber's president. A script of the day's events even predicted the outcome: "The vote is unanimous for Senator Montalbano" read a clerk.

In nominating Montalbano, Sen. William A. Walaska, D-Warwick, praised his "steady leadership and a calm demeanor."

Montalbano gave a 20-minute speech — five minutes longer than the governor's — that didn't outline his goals for this legislative session but instead reviewed the Senate's past accomplishments.

"This chamber has been in the forefront on issues such as housing, tougher drunk-driving laws, banning smoking in public places and protecting children from

lead poisoning," Montalbano said.

He praised his colleagues as "public servants who have provided and will continue to provide direction and leadership to move this state forward."

Across the marble hallway, Murphy was reelected House speaker 72 to 1. Rep. Rene Menard, a Lincoln Democrat who was ousted from his perch as House majority whip early in Murphy's reign, cast the only nay vote. (Two members were absent.)

The only other pebble in the road was removed when House Minority Leader Robert A. Watson, R-East Greenwich, withdrew his name from contention after GOP colleague Carol Mumford, of Scituate, had nominated him for speaker in a symbolic nod to the tiny Republican bloc's role as "the loyal opposition."

In a light-hearted reference to the recent defection to the Democrats of 1 of the 14 Republicans in his caucus, Watson said he counts his blessings daily and his Republicans as well, to which veteran lawmaker Paul Crowley, D-Newport, quipped: shouldn't take long.

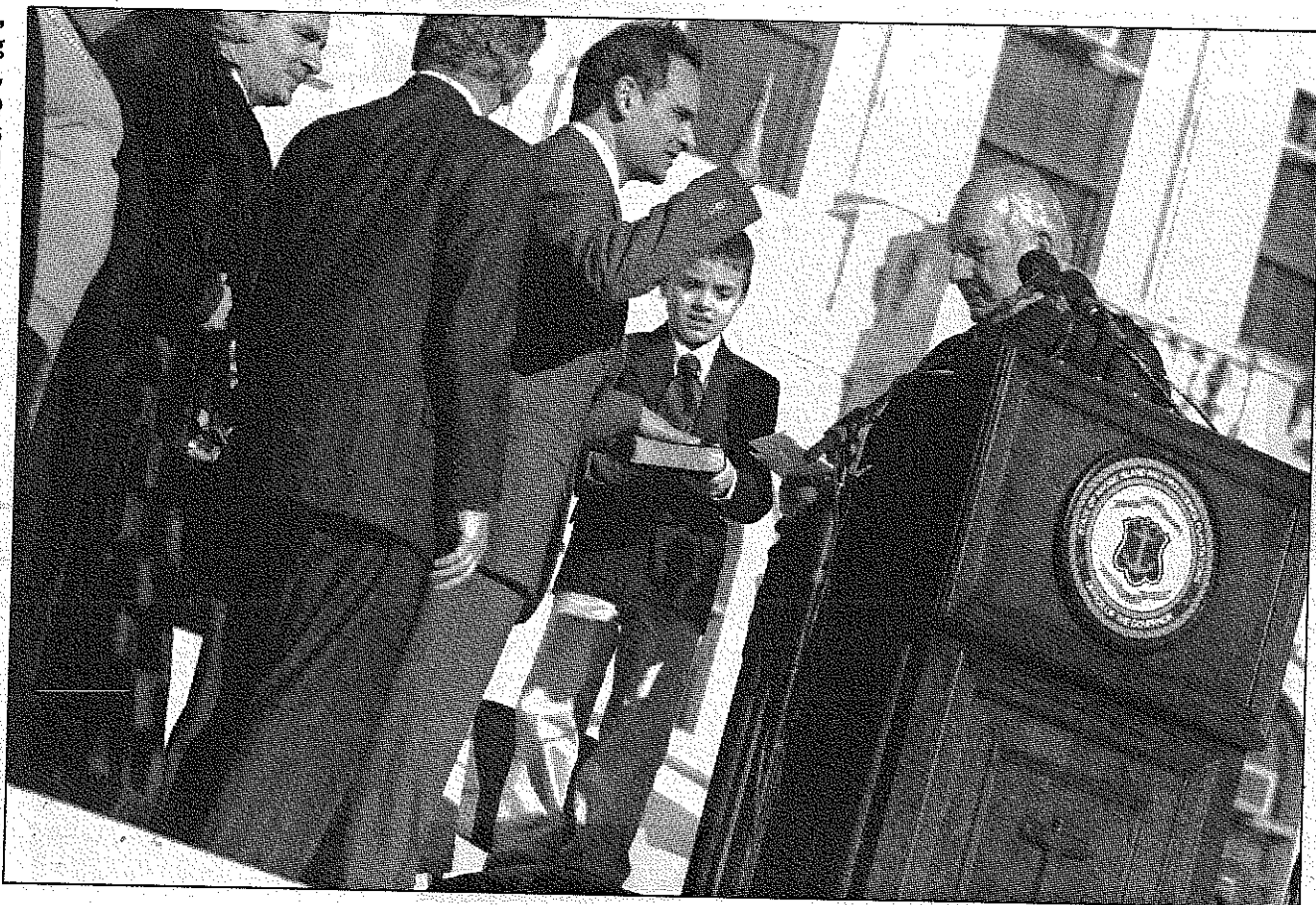
In a speech, Murphy listed his priorities for the session: "promote tax fairness and tax competitiveness; grow our economy; change the image of the House of Representatives; help those Rhode Islanders who cannot help themselves."

"If we continue to be viewed as a high taxing state, businesses will look elsewhere to expand, and our state's economy and philanthropy will suffer the consequences. We can not sit idly by and let that happen," he said.

As part of his effort to "change the image" of the Assembly, Murphy said each House committee would hold at least one hearing at a public site outside the State House, as part of what he called "Project Open House."

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With his son,  
Frank, holding  
the Bible,  
Frank T. Caprio  
is sworn in as  
general  
treasurer at  
yesterday's  
inauguration  
ceremonies.



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